National Institutes of Health

Fact Sheet

NIH Roadmap for Medical Research

August, 2006

NIH Roadmap for Medical Research

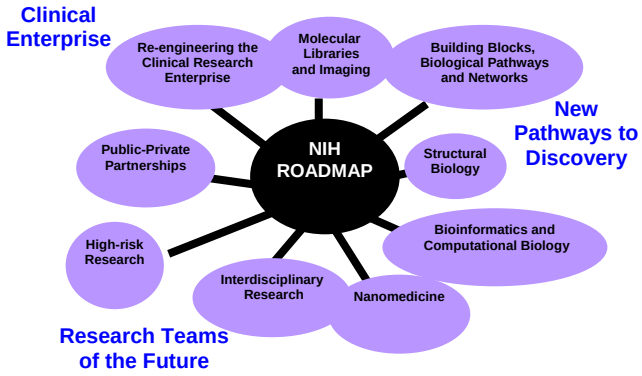
In 2002, NIH consulted extensively with its stakeholders, scientists, health care providers, and the public—to identify and prioritize the most pressing problems facing medical research today that can be uniquely addressed by the NIH as whole. The NIH Roadmap for Medical Research was formulated after those initial consultations. Three broad themes emerged with during the planning of the Roadmap:

1) **New Pathways to Discovery**, which invests in emerging and needed areas of research such as biological pathways (including metabolism) and networks; structural biology; molecular libraries and imaging; nanotechnology; bioinformatics and computational biology;

2) **Research Teams of the Future**, which supports both individual creativity and collaborative team efforts by supporting interdisciplinary research, high-risk research, and public-private partnerships; and

3) **Re-engineering the Clinical Research Enterprise**, which assists clinical research through harmonization efforts of regulatory policies, multidisciplinary training, development of a new networking and diagnostic tools, and facilitating the establishment of academic homes for clinical and translational research.. Through these efforts, NIH will boost the resources and technologies needed for 21st century biomedical science.

Information about specific projects within these three themes may be found on the Roadmap website: http://nihroadmap.nih.gov/



Accomplishments to date:

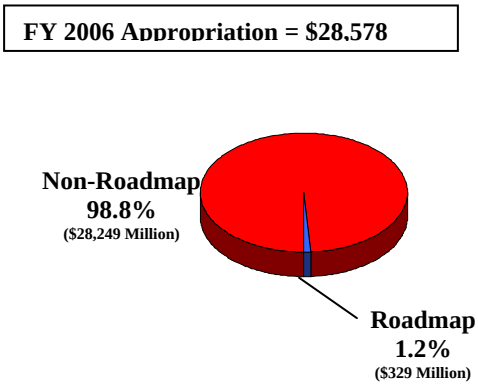
Trans-NIH Project Teams within each of the Roadmap Working Groups launched ─Roadmap initiatives and issued 38 solicitations in FY 2004 and 2005. Those efforts have funded 379 new grants. New grants awarded for each year are outlined below:

Research Grant Awards:	FY 2004 Number	FY 2005 Number	Total, FYs 2004/2005 new grants (*excludes overlap)
Total new grants	193	186	379
Investigators	177	175	326*
Investigators new to NIH	28	29	56*
Academic Institutions#	96	91	134*
States	29	30	33*

Includes medical schools, universities, independent institutes, etc.

The overall success rate for Roadmap initiatives in FY04 was 13.2% and in FY05, 17.2%.

Funding the Roadmap for Medical Research



Roadmap funds come from contributions made by all the NIH Institutes, Centers and the Office of the Director and represent a collective venture space of resources for shared needs. In light of current budget constraints this investment, now more than ever, represents a strategic investment in trans-NIH needs outlined by stakeholders.

Roadmap is not immune to the current budget climate and has been subjected to the same across-the-board decreases as the rest of the NIH.

Roadmap in the Future

The Roadmap is now managed under the auspices of the Office of Portfolio Analysis and Strategic Initiatives, OPASI. OPASI, in part due to the success of the Roadmap, contains a Division of Strategic Coordination which manages trans-NIH research initiatives including the Roadmap.

New initiatives in OPASI will, like Roadmap, represent an incubator-space for supporting cross-cutting emerging and high-risk research and are not meant to stay within the program forever. Current Roadmap initiatives and future OPASI initiatives may transition out to the institutes and centers or reach conclusion. A pilot process for soliciting ideas for new initiatives is being developed by OPASI for funding beginning in FY 2008.

Also like the Roadmap, funding for OPASI initiatives will come from contributions from all the NIH Institutes, Centers, and the Office of the Director. This "Common Fund" for shared needs derives from the pool of funds used for the NIH Roadmap.

OPASI: Functional Integration of Trans-NIH Interests

The current NIH organizational structure has allowed the agency to excel in advancing science within the specific missions of the various institutes and centers. The creation of OPASI will not change that structure. Instead, it will achieve a "functional integration" of the NIH by bringing together diverse components of the agency for a common scientific purpose for areas of science that cut across or fall between the missions of institutes and centers. The need for this type of functional integration is especially great in a time of both unprecedented scientific opportunities and limited resources. OPASI will help the agency to increase its effectiveness and efficiency in advancing science, ultimately resulting in the acceleration of basic research discoveries and speed translation of those discoveries into applications that improve the health of the American people.

Office of Portfolio Analysis and Strategic Initiatives (OPASI)

Provides new opportunity for more *trans*-NIH dialogue, decision making and funding